

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A layer for use in a papermakers' fabric, comprising:
 - a plurality of land areas;
 - a plurality of groove areas;
 - a plurality of perforations extending from a top surface to a bottom surface of said layer; and

wherein the combination of said land areas, groove areas and perforations minimize pattern formation on said paper sheet.
2. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane.
3. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said land areas lie in a plane.
4. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane and said land areas lie in a plane.
5. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 4 wherein said plane of said groove areas and said plane of said land areas are parallel.
6. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 which includes a series of groove areas, some of which are positioned at an angle greater than 0 degrees to a machine direction.

7. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said series of groove areas are in a cross hatched pattern.

8. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said perforations are dispersed throughout both said land areas and said groove areas, and wherein one or more of said perforations lies across the interface of a land area and a groove area.

9. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said perforations are only in said groove areas.

10. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said perforations are only in said land areas.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a layer for use in a papermakers' fabric, comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of grooves in a base material so as to form a modified base material having a plurality of land areas and a plurality of groove areas; and

perforating said modified base material so as to form a plurality of perforations extending from a top surface to a bottom surface in said modified base material, wherein the combination of said land areas, groove areas and perforations minimize pattern formation on said paper sheet.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane.
13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said land areas lie in a plane.
14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane and said land areas lie in a plane.
15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein said plane of said groove areas and said plane of said land areas are parallel.
16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 which includes a series of groove areas, some of which are positioned at an angle greater than 0 degrees to a machine direction.
17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said series of groove areas are in a cross hatched pattern.
18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said perforations are dispersed throughout both said land areas and said groove areas, and wherein one or more of said perforations lies across the interface of a land area and a groove area.
19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said perforations are only in said groove areas.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said perforations are only in said land areas.

21. (Previously Presented) A layer for use in a papermakers' fabric formed by creating a plurality of grooves in a base material so as to form a modified base material having a plurality of land areas and a plurality of groove areas, and perforating said modified base material so as to form a plurality of perforations extending from a top surface to a bottom surface in said modified base material, wherein the combination of said land areas, groove areas and perforations minimize pattern formation on said paper sheet.

22. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane.

23. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said land areas lie in a plane.

24. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane and said land areas lie in a plane.

25. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 24 wherein said plane of said groove areas and said plane of said land areas are parallel.

26. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 which includes a series of groove areas, some of which are positioned at an angle greater than 0 degrees to a machine direction.

27. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 26 wherein said series of groove areas are in a cross hatched pattern.

28. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforations are dispersed throughout both said land areas and said groove areas, and wherein one or more of said perforations lies across the interface of a land area and a groove area.

29. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforations are only in said groove areas.

30. (Original) A layer as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforations are only in said land areas.

31. (Currently Amended) A papermakers' press fabric, comprising a layer having:
a plurality of land areas oriented substantially in the machine direction;
a plurality of groove areas oriented substantially in the machine direction;
a plurality of perforations, extending from a top surface to a bottom surface of
said layer; and

wherein the combination of said land areas, groove areas and perforations
minimize pattern formation on said paper sheet.

32. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 31 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane.

33. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 31 wherein said land areas lie in a plane.

34. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 31 wherein said groove areas lie in a plane and said land areas lie in a plane.

35. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 34 wherein said plane of said groove areas and said plane of said land areas are parallel.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A layer as claimed in claim 3631 wherein said series of groove areas are in a cross hatched pattern.

38. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 31 wherein said perforations are dispersed throughout both said land areas and said groove areas, and wherein one or more of said perforations lies across the interface of a land area and a groove area.

39. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 31 wherein said perforations are only in said groove areas.

40. (Original) A press fabric as claimed in claim 25 wherein said perforations are only in said land areas.